Murder of coal miners

1314. SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some coal miners were lynched to death and their bodies were burnt by musclemen and goondas at the West Bokaro Coal mines near Charahi recently;

(b) if so, whether any inquiry has been made into the incidents; and

(c) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COAL IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI C. K. JAFFAR SHARIEF): (a) to (c) A clash occurred on 16th April, 1988 between two groups of labourers (not coal miners) employed as loaders by buyers of slurry from the Tailing Ponds of the Washery attached to the West Bokaro Colliery of M/s. TISCO which is not a Govt. company. In the clash, 7 persons were killed, including one who died due to burn injuries. 19 others received injuries. Some huts were also set on fire. The local police has registered a case and 13 persons have been arrested. An armed picket has been posted to maintain law and order. The situation is now reported to be under control.

Petrochemical complex at Visakhapatnam

1315. SHRI B. SATYANARAYAN REDDY: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal for the setting up of the Petrochemical industry at Visakhapatnam in Andhra Pradesh is pending with the Central Goverment for sanction and clearance;

(b) if so, what are the reasons for the delay in giving the clearance; and

(c) by when the project would be cleared by Central Government?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO): (a) to (c) M/s Andhra Pradesh Industrial Development Corporation Ltd. have submitted a report for the setting up of a Petrochemical complex at Visakhapatnam. A view on the various techno-economic aspects such as product pattern, financial out-lay etc. is yet to be taken.

Purchase of push button Telephone Instruments by Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited

1316. SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited has recently purchased a large number of push button telephone instruments from private manufacturers; and

(b) if so, what are the names and addresses of the firms from which these purchases were made and at what prices?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI VASANT SATHE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The information is given in the statement which is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

Purchase orders for Push Button Telephones have been placed by Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited on the following Public Sector, Joint Sector and Private Companies at the lowest uniform rate of Rs. 794.00 and Rs.8 26.25 for D.T.M.F. type and Decadic type instruments, respectively (exclusively of Excise Duty and Sales Tax).

1. M/s. Punjab Wireless Ltd., Sector-8 C. Chandigarh.

2. M/s. Swede India, 87, M. G. Road, Bangalore.

3. M/s. Haryana Telecommunications Ltd., A/23, New Shopping Com-